

Latinos Stand Up

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The mural begins with the image of the most advanced expression of Maya architecture (circa Classic period 1000-800 a.c.) due to the orientation of the building the shadow of the equinox of summer and winter creates the body of a snake descending throughout the day to connect with the sculpted head of a snake at the base of the main staircase, thus, recreating the prophecy of the return to earth by the God Kukulcan as told by the ancients.

The Maya culture a proud and wise civilization brought forth the concept of zero, a precise calendar, an advanced insight into astronomy accepted and recognized by European nations, as well as the notion of living in communication with nature.

In the mist of time a new culture developed based on the Spanish invasion to the New World. A new race took form and is now known as "mestizo" the mixing of European and Indian blood. Colonization also brought a new religion, and agrarian culture creating a very particular care of livestock into a national past-time presently known as Mexican charrería.

El charro (Mexican cowboy) strong and graceful together with his steed created art in every one of the nine suertes (risks) charras that embody the event. The risk represented in the mural is the last of such exercises it is known as the death pass (consisting of gaining control of a wild horse as the cowboy dismounts at full gallop from his tame beast).

As we continue to describe the mural in its lower right side. We can see one of many representation of Spanish Colonial architecture (1524-1810). It is of great importance to mention the great effort and labor by the people of Mexico to preserve such treasures and make it appear as if time has stand still throughout the Mexican landscape.

At the lower left side of the mural we observe the prickly pear cactus in bloom. This hearty plant survives under severe conditions and in turn provides protection to the delicate flower surrounding it with sharp thorns to prevent it from a premature harvest. Thus the Latino men and women are similar to this plant for they take risks to arrive to this land with hope and for a better opportunity and future. The different culture, language and a country that is not familiar, make such people stronger and eager to take on anything to make their hope a reality.

The unfurling of the Mexican and American flag symbolizing the fusion of both cultures giving birth to new customs with the great responsibility to this adoptive land by making the commitment to be good citizens and always proud of our past and present.

Besides the Mexican flag we see those people that wait in the native land the return of prodigal sons and daughters to live a more dignifying life in their place of origin however, time and promises are quickly forgotten and the return of such off-springs will not be easy but the love and hope to see them again will continue to be a beacon in the distance.

On the right side of the mural the American flag protects what is important to every human being in this country, dignity through employment and positive future options. Although we still have the responsibility to our youth to provide a solid educational process and encourage them to obtain what ought to be a rite of passage and a great honor "Graduation Day" difficult task but not impossible.

The past left a golden footprint, now it is our responsibility to leave our footprint for a successful new generation from two cultures fused into one.

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